



# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

At St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School - We are Respectful Responsible Learners

## Instrument Hire Request Form

Please find below details of instrument allocation for your child, and fees owing for instrument hire, if you require hire through the school. If you already have an instrument or are sourcing your own hire, please still return this form and tick the appropriate option below.

Please note a deposit of \$50 and this form along with the Band Commitment Declaration is required when joining. The annual hire fee can either be paid up front, or the unpaid balance settled at first band rehearsal in Term 1. **Instrument fees can be paid by cash or cheque ONLY** and should be submitted with the form below to the school office in an envelope marked "School Band". We can only order your instrument when the deposit is received. Please note orders need to be done by mid-December to ensure instruments are received at the start of Term 1. Please call Patrice Murfitt if you have any questions (phone: 0406611023).

Students Name:

Students Class:

Instrument Allocated:

Annual Hire Fee (if applicable):

Please Tick:

I enclose the deposit of \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ OR

I enclose the full hire fee of \$200 / \$275 (delete as appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_ OR

No money enclosed, not hiring through school \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose cash or cheque (cheques to be made out to St John the Baptist School Woy Woy):

Parents Name: .....

Signed: .....

Parents Contact Number .....

# SJB School Band Information Pack

- **ABOUT US**

The current SJB Band began in 2014. We are incredibly proud of the progress they have made. In 2014, as a training band they achieved a Gold award at the Band Festival held in November. In 2015 we were the only school to have both their training and concert bands place in the top two (a Gold and a Silver) and in 2016 we topped that with Gold in both categories (again, the only school to achieve that). 2017 saw us receive another Gold, combined with a Silver for the training band. This year in 2018 we achieved another Gold and Silver award. We currently have over 50 students involved in the band programme.

- **ORGANISATION**

The SJB band programme is administered by a voluntary group of parents. For the band programme to continue to flourish, it is vital that we have the ongoing support of parents. If you are interested in helping, please contact Patrice Murfitt 0406 611 023. This year sees the end of several parent's affiliation with the band as their children move on to high school, so the remaining committee are really in need of some new volunteers – many hands make light work.

- **WHAT THE PROGRAMME ENTAILS**

- ✓ A one-hour weekly band rehearsal before school. Currently, the concert band rehearses on a Wednesday morning at 7.50am and the training band rehearses on a Thursday morning at 7.50am. This could change next year depending on band conductor commitments, and you will be advised as soon as possible next year. Please note, you are not permitted to leave siblings at band rehearsal as there is no supervision other than the Band Conductor. Some of our current band members co-ordinate with each other to save two trips to school that day. You may be able to do this if necessary.
- ✓ A 30minute tutorial lesson which will be held during the school day. The time of that is dependent on both the tutor and the schools needs. As soon as we have the schedule, we will advise you. It may be on the same day as band rehearsal, or it may mean your child has the responsibility to bring their instrument twice a week. Similarly, it may be during class time, or at break time. Please understand that it is complicated to co-ordinate the large number of lessons, and the needs of the school. **We cannot change tutorials to suit individuals.** Students have the responsibility to remember what time their tutorial is. It may help to write it on your child's hand and have them wear a watch on tutorial day.
- ✓ In certain circumstances, tutorials are unable to be run as scheduled, e.g. a tutor is ill. Should this happen, we will endeavor to reschedule the tutorial.
- ✓ A small number of performances – some at assembly, some during school time in the form of an excursion (Big Day Out, for training and concert bands, and band tour – for concert band only), and some on a weekend day. We will inform you of these as they come up.
- ✓ The main methods of communication are via the school newsletter, email and text from band committee members. **Please do not contact the school office with queries about band matters.** These should be referred to the band committee.

- **YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAMME**

The success of the band programme is due to the commitment and support of parents. Both parents and students have responsibilities at home and at school that you should be aware of.

## AT HOME

- ✓ Practice every day. This should not be an onerous burden which becomes a chore. Find a time where there is a spare 5 or 10 minutes initially, and over time, as proficiency develops, students will want to practice more and more. Remind students as they become frustrated that it took all the students in the current band several terms to develop their skills – they will all get there in the end!
- ✓ Students need to take good care of their instrument, following the instructions of their tutor, who will explain to them how to care for it.
- ✓ Students need to remember to bring both their instrument, and music book to school on the relevant days. They also need to remember to go to their tutorial, and to take their instrument home with them.

## AT SCHOOL

- ✓ Band members are expected to attend every rehearsal, as they are an important part of the team.
- ✓ If a Band Member leaves their instrument at home, or it is being repaired, we expect them to still attend rehearsals, so they don't miss vital instructions and information.
- ✓ Out of respect to everyone, it is important for students to be on time for band rehearsal, so that the responsibility for setting up is shared equally. This help should be given before unpacking their own instrument. Arriving late is disruptive and distracting. The morning rehearsal requires a 7.50am arrival to help set up and be seated and ready to play by 8am sharp.
- ✓ Band members other than percussionists (i.e. drummers) may help move drum kit, but assembly is to be done by percussionists only, as they have been trained in how to do this correctly. The increased setting up requirements mean it is essential percussionists arrive promptly. They will also have additional responsibilities on the day of their tutorial.
- ✓ After band rehearsal, all students are required to help pack away. This is not a time for socialising. The expectation is students act promptly in order to arrive to class on time.
- ✓ Band members must listen courteously and follow respectfully all instructions from conductors and tutors. Talking out of turn is inappropriate behaviour and is disrespectful to the conductor, your tutor and all band members. This requires self discipline and fosters teamwork. Please discuss this expectation with your child.

- **If your child is experiencing difficulties**

It is possible that at some stage in their 'band career' your child may lose motivation. Should your child experience one of these patches, please talk to your tutor or the Band Conductor. In their many years of experience, they have seen this happen before and will be able to offer constructive advice. Please don't let your child leave the band without trying to resolve an issue. Abrupt departures are a shame and are very disappointing for everyone.

- **BAND FEES**

Instrument tuition and band rehearsal fees is anticipated to be \$185/term which represents exceptional value when considered against the educational benefits. Please be clear that **this is paid directly to the Conservatorium**. The **only fees we collect are instrument hire fees** should they be necessary. The Conservatorium will invoice you directly on a term basis. You will need to enrol directly with the Conservatorium as well using this link:

[https://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools\\_Program/enrol\\_2019](https://centralcoastconservatorium.com.au/Schools_Program/enrol_2019).

There may be additional minor costs from time to time throughout the year which parents may be required to pay. We may also request help in fundraising. We would like to acknowledge and thank the school for the funding they provide the band. This allows us to keep costs to a minimum.

- **INSTRUMENT HIRE**

Should you need to hire an instrument via the school, please complete the attached form and return with your Band Commitment Declaration, along with a \$50 deposit. Annual Hire ranges from \$200 - \$275 (for saxophone) per instrument. The deposit is to secure your instrument which we must order before the end of the year. We hire our instruments through Polygon, at a discounted rate. The balance of the annual hire fee will be payable at the first band rehearsal next year. You are more than welcome to pay the full hire fee now if you prefer.

Please note, **it is not compulsory to hire through us** – you are more than welcome to organise your own hire elsewhere. Should you hire through us, please be aware that it is YOUR responsibility to take your instrument to Gosford Music for repairs should that be necessary. Depending on the nature of the repair, the cost may or may not be covered by Polygon. Additionally, **should a repair or a return be necessary, your child will be without an instrument during that time.** We do not have any spare instruments. The parent volunteer for any instrument queries is currently Leslie Jarvis, 0488661046. Please note, you need to talk to the Band Committee (not the Conservatorium tutors or the school) about any issues with instrument hire issues rented through Polygon.

- **WHAT ELSE?**

- ✓ You will need to purchase a book: Accent on Achievement Book 1 (you purchase the one that matches the instrument your child is playing. NB for saxophone, it is ALTO sax, and for drums, it is COMBINED PERCUSSION)
- ✓ We suggest you do this a.s.a.p. (if you leave it till the last minute, they may be out of stock, and students will need this from the first week of tuition). They are available from Gosford Music, and Macron Music, but you may wish to ring first to ensure they have them in stock. You may also wish to purchase a music stand for use at home (not essential).
- ✓ Depending on the instrument, you may need to purchase additional items such as reeds. Your tutor will advise you of these requirements at your child's first tutorial.
- ✓ Finally, please read through all this with your child, and then sign the Band Commitment Declaration. **Return this, with the Instrument Hire Request (and money) if needed, in an envelope marked SCHOOL BAND.**
- ✓ We will be in contact with you early in Term 1 to advise when tuition will start. We anticipate it to be Week 2 at this stage, however, that may change.
- ✓ Any other queries, please contact Patrice Murfitt 0406 611 023.
- ✓ Remember to label your instrument with your name and contact details on it.

# BAND COMMITMENT DECLARATION

## Parents:

Please read this information pack with your child. It is important that all members of the band and their parents/guardians understand the conditions of band membership, and that they sign the declaration below.

Being part of the SJB Band Program is a wonderful opportunity for children to develop their musical skills and to experience the fun of making great music together. We are delighted that your child wants to be a part of it. As with anything that is worthwhile, however, Band requires a commitment of time, effort and finances on the part of band members and their parents.

We ask that you discuss the following points with your child. **Please return the form to the office in an envelope marked SCHOOL BAND.**

This is not intended to discourage any child from continuing band. Rather, it is to clarify what is expected of all band members and to create an opportunity for parents to discuss this commitment with their children.

1. A band is a team, just like a sporting team. Everyone has an important and unique part to play and everyone is needed. Without everyone working together and doing their best the team is not complete and cannot perform at its best.
2. The Band Program has expectations designed to ensure that the Band functions smoothly and achieves its best.
3. While circumstances can change, it is expected that children start the year intending to remain in the Band for the full year.

I have read and understand the conditions of the Band and I will always endeavour to do my Personal Best.

Child/ren's name/s: ...

.....  
.....

Child/rens signatures: .....

Band member of (please circle):    Training                      Concert

I have read this booklet with my child and I understand and agree to the requirements of the SJB Band Program. **I also give permission for my child/rens' photograph to be used in Band Communications.** I agree my contact details may be given to the Band Conductor and Tutor. Finally, I understand that all the parents on the committee are busy and volunteering their time and I agree to communicate in a respectful fashion should any issues arise.

Parent's signature: ..... Date: .....